GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004
MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Geete Shri Anant Gangaram

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance companies do not accept medical insurance proposal and renew existing medical insurance for persons above 70 years of age;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether under existing norms persons above 80 years of age are excluded from medical insurance cover;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government is aware that some countries have a mandatory requirement regarding `Medical Insurance` as a pre-condition for issue of `visa` and thus senior citizens face harassment due to non-availability of medical insurance;

(f) whether the Government propose to take suitable steps and issue instructions to ensure provision for medical insurance coverage of senior citizens without any age restrictions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF FINANCE (P. CHIDAMBRAM)

(a) to (g): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 78 for answer on Friday, the 9th July, 2004 tabled by S/Shri Anant Gangaram Geete and Anandrao V. Adsul, Members of Parliament regarding `Medical Insurance for Senior Citizens`

(a)&(b): Insurance companies do offer medical insurance to persons above the age of 70 years also. However, due to the vulnerability of senior citizens to various diseases coupled with adverse claims ratio, some insurance companies do not have such a product.

(c)&(d): Insurance companies do not offer fresh medical insurance cover for persons above the age of 80 years. However, major insurance companies make it available to such persons, on case to case basis, subject to the policy being in force without break.

(e): Mandatory requirement of medical insurance as a precondition, by some countries, for issue of `visa` to applicants including senior citizens could be fulfilled by purchasing it from the companies which are already offering overseas medical insurance cover even to persons above 70 years of age.

(f)&(g): Major insurance companies are already offering both domestic and overseas medical insurance policies to senior citizens also, with appropriate conditions, having regard to their age and health status. Therefore, there is no need to issue any instructions in this regard.